

**Assessments. Estimates. Goals and Priorities: Strategies. and Progress Reports -  
State's Strategies and Use of Title I Funds of Innovation and Expansion Activities**

---

**Strategies to Achieve the Goals and Priorities of the Division**

The State Plan Attachment 4.11(c) identifies goals established by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Rehabilitation Services. These goals are related to assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain good jobs, economic self-sufficiency, personal independence, and full inclusion into the community. The strategies listed below are key steps in accomplishing these goals.

- Strategy 1.1: Coordinate vocational rehabilitation services for clients who are attending post-secondary programs.
- Strategy 1.2: Increase and strengthen transition services for eligible students who are exploring their employment future.
- Strategy 1.3: Educate teachers, students and parents about Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- Strategy 1.4: Expand transition services that have demonstrated effectiveness through evidence based practices identified in follow-up surveys for Indicator 14, which is the outcome measure one year after high school for students who were on an Individual Education Plan.
- Strategy 1.5: Implement outreach and informed choice strategies for youth who are deaf or hearing impaired.
- Strategy 1.6: Conduct outreach activities to for students with disabilities and their family members to provide information on vocational rehabilitation services.
- Strategy 1.7: Increase and strengthen transition services for students who are Native Americans or other minorities with disabilities exploring employment future.
- Strategy 2.1: Increase the service capacity and quality of services delivered through the service providers.
- Strategy 2.2: Strengthen partnerships with the business community.

- Strategy 2.3: Strengthen partnerships with organizations serving Native Americans and other minorities with disabilities.
- Strategy 2.4: Coordinate vocational rehabilitation services with the elementary and secondary school systems.
- Strategy 2.5: Strengthen working relationships with entities, agencies, and organizations to enhance the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to underserved rural areas.
- Strategy 2.6: Strengthen the extended services for assuring successful employment for supported employment clients.
- Strategy 2.7: State Government will be a model employer in increasing the employment of people with disabilities in State Government.
- Strategy 3.1: Increase knowledge of the current transportation systems and compatibility with the employment systems.
- Strategy 3.2: Promote the participation of disability agencies and local communities to improve transportation services.
- Strategy 3.3: Improve the availability of transportation for Vocational Rehabilitation clients.
- Strategy 4.1: Improve the employment retention of Vocational Rehabilitation clients.
- Strategy 4.2: Track the earnings for SSA beneficiaries and implement actions to increase the earnings and employment rate of clients who are SSA beneficiaries.
- Strategy 4.3: Provide specialized support services based upon individual's unique needs to keep their employment.
- Strategy 4.4: Strengthen the Benefits Specialists services for VR clients.

- Strategy 4.5: Strengthen the Ticket to Work initiatives for Social Security beneficiaries.
- Strategy 4.6: Increase work experience opportunities for adults with disabilities.
- Strategy 4.7: Promote the development & utilization of vocational skills training for individuals in South Dakota.
- Strategy 4.8: Meet or exceed performance levels established for the Performance Indicators under Evaluation Standard 1- Employment Outcomes & Standard 2 – Equal Access to Services (established in 34 CFR Sec. 361.84(c)(1) of the Federal Regulations).
- Strategy 5.1: Implement strategies and tools for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in assessing the motivational state of VR clients as to their desire for employment.
- Strategy 5.2: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors will utilize strategies and tools for assessing critical strengths and deficits in the client's personal life status and skills.
- Strategy 5.3: Develop potential provider supports for life skills development.
- Strategy 5.4: Increase the utilization of self-employment as an employment outcome for VR clients.

### **Future Utilization of Innovation and Expansion Funds**

Section 101 (a)(18) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended requires the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to reserve and use a portion of the funds for:

- (i) the development and implementation of innovative approaches to expand and improve the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with the most significant disabilities, consistent with the findings of the statewide assessment and goals and priorities of the State. and

(ii) to support of the State Rehabilitation Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services has reserved a budgeted amount for the utilization of the Innovation and Expansion. These funds will be used for the following activities:

- ✓ Support the cost of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. This includes staff cost, accommodations and other direct costs involved in VR Board activities.
- ✓ Support the cost of the State-Wide Independent Living Council (SILC). This includes staff cost, accommodations and other direct costs involved in SILC activities.
- ✓ Support initiatives approved by the Board of VR to expand and improve the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with the most significant disabilities, consistent with the findings of the statewide assessment and goals and priorities of the State.
- ✓ Support the functions of the VR Board as described in Section 105 (c) of the Rehabilitation Act.
- ✓ Support the improve use of assistive technology services and devices through the assistive technology advisory committee and collaboration with the assistive technology systems change project.
- ✓ Support the establishment, development and improvement of community rehabilitation programs.
- ✓ Support improvement in service provision as measured through standards and indicators.
- ✓ Support initiatives to assist partners in the statewide workforce investment system in assisting individuals with disabilities.